

**USDA/Rural Development
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-0705**

Contact: Kevin Herglotz (202) 720-4623
Claiborne Crain (202) 720-1255

**USDA AWARDS \$11.4 MILLION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR
EDUCATION AND MEDICAL SERVICE**

WASHINGTON, October 2, 2001—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on September 30th, the selection of 45 Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grants totaling \$11.4 million, providing greater educational opportunities and medical service to rural citizens in 26 states.

“These grants underscore our commitment at USDA to work with communities to develop and improve access to rural health care and education,” said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman.

In total, 22 distance education grants (\$5.1 million), and 23 telemedicine grants (\$6.3 million) were selected for funding. The education projects will help 306 schools provide 152,678 students with educational tools to better equip them for the global digital economy. An estimated two million rural residents will have access to better, faster, and more modern health care by more than 100 medical service providers participating in these projects.

In Columbus, Nebraska, Crossroads Distance Learning Education Consortium (CDLEC) will use the \$433,830 in USDA grant funds to create an interactive video network to provide a broadened curriculum and better preparation of post-secondary education for the students, staff and community adults of the ten participating school districts. The school districts involved with this project include: Columbus, David City, East Butler, High Plains, Humphrey, Osceola, Rising City, Schuyler, Shelby, and Stromsburg. USDA funds, matched with CDLEC funds, will be used to purchase digital equipment to interconnect the schools with one another. The interactive video network will provide advance placement and college-level courses to students and will afford community involvement in the use of technology for personal and career development.

The Mid-American Rehabilitation Telehealth Network (MRTN) is a hub and spoke telehealth system that will link community care centers and long-term care centers for patient consultation and treatment; education for patients, care providers, families and community members; support groups, family/patient visitation; and continuing education opportunities. The goal of this telehealth system is to assure that rural residents have immediate access to quality rehabilitation care. The Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln is a member of the MRTN and received the \$306,110 USDA grant for this telemedicine project, which will benefit approximately 90,000 rural residents. Additional members of the MRTN include the Wilber Care Center, Ashland Care Center and Fremont Area Medical Center. Specialists at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital will collaborate on and share leading-edge technology with clinicians in the connecting rehabilitation departments. The telehealth system will enable patients to receive care from rehabilitation professionals without leaving their home area.

Rural Health Partners, Inc. d.b.a. Heartland Health Alliance (HHA) of Lexington, Nebraska received \$196,012 in USDA grant funds to install interactive video systems at eight additional HHA rural hospitals. The eight hospitals are Boone County Health Center of Albion, Crete Municipal Hospital of Crete, Jefferson Community Health Center in Fairbury, Johnson County Hospital in Tecumseh, Phelps Memorial Health Center of Holdrege, Valley County Hospitals in Ord, Cherry County Hospital of Valentine and Garden County Hospital of Oshkosh. Previous to this funding, six HHA hospitals already had interactive video systems installed. The interactive video systems will assist the rural hospitals with expanding the local medical and educational programming opportunities and thus improve the medical care provided to the rural residents. The project will benefit approximately 33 physicians, 626 nurses and 23,899 rural residents in Nebraska and northeast Kansas.

The following is a complete list of approved project dollars by state. A complete list of the selected grant recipients can be found at the USDA Rural Development web site at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telcom/dlt/awards.htm>

Alabama - \$273,887	Alaska - \$361,272	Arizona - \$130,100
California - \$1,777,535	Colorado - \$710,900	Florida - \$246,206
Indiana - \$133,428	Iowa - \$837,697	Kansas - \$59,500
Kentucky - \$405,287	Louisiana - \$169,700	Maine - \$115,000
Massachusetts - \$321,688	Michigan - \$54,000	Missouri - \$237,703
Nebraska - \$935,952	New Mexico - \$482,420	New York - \$455,303
North Dakota - \$178,229	Oklahoma - \$63,431	Oregon - \$321,447
Pennsylvania - \$364,087	South Dakota - \$208,739	Tennessee - \$992,422
Texas - \$1,268,895	Wisconsin - \$570,257	

-more-

USDA's Rural Utilities Service administers the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program. USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance

through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

#

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

DISTANCE LEARNING & TELEMEDICINE GRANT AWARDS
Fiscal Year 2001-Second Round

Alabama - \$273,887

North-West Shoals Community College, Phil Campbell, AL \$273,887 (Education)

Alaska - \$361,272

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District; Palmer, AK \$361,272 (Education)

Arizona - \$130,100

Central Arizona College; Coolidge, AZ \$130,100 (Education)

California - \$1,777,535

Clovis Unified School District, Clovis, CA \$438,011 (Education)

Visiting Nurse Association of the Inland Counties; Riverside, CA \$339,524 (Telemed)

Visible Light, Inc., Buellton, California \$500,000 (Education)

West Hills Community College District; Coalinga, CA \$500,000 (Education)

Colorado - \$710,900

High Plains Rural Health Network; Brush, CO \$292,900 (Telemed)

Montrose Memorial Hospital, Montrose, Colorado \$418,000 (Telemed)

Florida - \$246,206

Florida State University; Tallahassee, FL \$246,206 (Education)

Indiana - \$133,428

Central Indiana Health System; Indianapolis, Indiana \$133,428 (Telemed)

Iowa - \$837,697

Corning Community School District; Corning, Iowa \$494,289 (Education)

Lamoni Community School District; Lamoni, Iowa \$249,380 (Education)

Indian Hills Community College; Ottumwa, Iowa \$ 94,028 (Education)

Kansas - \$59,500

Smith County Memorial Hospital; Smith Center, KS \$ 59,500 (Telemed)

Kentucky - \$405,287

Johnson Mathers Health Care, Inc.; Carlisle, Kentucky \$352,787 (Education)

Morgan County ARH Hospital; West Liberty, Kentucky \$ 52,500 (Telemed)

Louisiana - \$169,700

Union General Hospital; Farmerville, Louisiana \$ 69,600 (Telemed)

East Carroll Parish Hospital; Lake Providence, Louisiana \$100,100 (Telemed)

Maine - \$115,000

St. Andrews Hospital; Boothbay Harbor, Maine \$115,000 (Telemed)

Massachusetts - \$321,688

Hampshire Educational Collaborative, Northampton, MA \$208,288 (Education)

Nantucket Cottage Hospital, Nantucket, MA \$113,400 (Telemed)

Michigan - \$54,000

Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools, Owendale, Michigan \$ 54,000 (Education)

Missouri - \$237,703

Texas County Technical Institute; Houston, Missouri \$ 71,863 (Education)

University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathy, KC, MO \$165,840 (Telemed)

Nebraska - \$935,952

Rural Health Partners/Heartland Health Alliance, Lexington, NE	\$196,012 (Telemed)
Crossroads Distance Learning Ed. Consortium, Columbus, NE	\$433,830 (Education)
Mid-American Rehabilitation Telehealth Network; Lincoln, NE	\$306,110 (Telemed)

New Mexico - \$482,420

University of New Mexico – Gallup; Gallup, New Mexico	\$482,420 (Education)
---	-----------------------

New York - \$455,303

Westchester County Health Care Corporation; Valhalla, NY	\$455,303 (Education)
--	-----------------------

North Dakota - \$178,229

Langdon School District Foundation, Langdon, ND	\$110,000 (Education)
West River Health Services; Hettinger; ND	\$ 68,229 (Telemed)

Oklahoma - \$63,431

Sequoyah County-City/Sequoyah Memorial Hosp., Sallisaw, OK	\$ 63,431 (Telemed)
--	---------------------

Oregon - \$321,447

St. Charles Medical Center Foundation; Bend, Oregon	\$321,447 (Telemed)
---	---------------------

Pennsylvania - \$364,087

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA	\$364,087 (Education)
--	-----------------------

South Dakota - \$208,739

Horizon Health Care, Inc.; Howard, South Dakota	\$208,739 (Telemed)
---	---------------------

Tennessee - \$992,422

University of Tennessee, College of Pharmacy, Memphis, TN	\$493,675 (Telemed)
U T Health Science/Delta Telehealth Project, Memphis, TN	\$498,747 (Telemed)

Texas - \$1,268,895

Texas A&M University-Kingsville; Kingsville, Texas	\$195,500 (Education)
Texas Family Health Network, Inc.; Plainview, Texas	\$494,927 (Telemed)
Scott&White Mem. Hosp/S.Sherwood/Brindley Fnd., Temple, TX	\$335,402 (Telemed)
Hill College; Hillsboro, Texas	\$176,266 (Education)
Texana M H & M R Center; Rosenberg, Texas	\$ 66,800 (Education)

Wisconsin - \$570,257

Cooperative Ed. Service Agency #7, Green Bay, WI	\$500,000 (Education)
Spring Valley Health Care Center; Spring Valley, Wisconsin	\$ 70,257 (Telemed)

**FY 2001 Distance Learning and Telemedicine
PROJECT SUMMARIES
Second Round of Announcements
September 28, 2001**

NEBRASKA

Rural Health Partners, Inc., d.b.a Heartland Health Alliance; Lexington, Nebraska; \$196,012 Grant; Area(s) Served: Boone, Nemaha, Saline, Jefferson, Phelps, Valley, Johnson, Garden Counties; Contact: Shelia Rowe; (308) 324-3050; Fax: (308) 324-3055; Congressional Districts: 1st and 3rd

Heartland Health Alliance (HHA) is a 32 member hospital network in Nebraska and northeast Kansas. HHA believes that in order to provide the best medical care to patients, medical staff must have access to medical and

educational programming. Currently, six HHA hospitals have interactive video systems installed at their facilities. The purpose of this project is to install interactive video systems at eight additional HHA rural hospitals. The eight hospitals are: Boone County Health Center (Albion), Crete Municipal Hospital (Crete), Jefferson Community Health Center (Fairbury), Johnson County Hospital (Tecumseh), Phelps Memorial Health Center (Holdrege) Valley County Hospitals (Ord), Cherry County Hospital (Valentine), and Garden County Hospital (Oshkosh). The installation of these systems will assist the rural hospitals with expanding the local medical and educational programming opportunities and thus improve the medical care provided to the rural residents. The original six hospitals will also benefit from this project because the addition of the sites will enhance and expand their networking opportunities. This project has the potential to benefit approximately 33 physicians, 626 nurses and 23,899 rural residents.

Crossroads Distance Learning Education Consortium; Columbus, Nebraska; \$433,830 Grant; Area(s) Served: Butler, Merrick, Platte and Polk Counties; Contact: Ms. Phyllis Brunken; Phone: (402) 564-5753; FAX: (402) 563-1121; Congressional Districts: 1st and 3rd

Crossroads Distance Learning Education Consortium (CDLEC), is a consortium of school districts located in east-central Nebraska. CDLEC proposes to create an interactive video network to provide a broadened curriculum and better preparation of post-secondary education for the students, staff and community adults of the participating school districts. The school districts involved in this project include Columbus, David City, East Butler, High Plains, Humphrey, Osceola, Rising City, Schuyler, Shelby and Stromsburg. Educational Service Units (ESUs) are Nebraska's intermediary educational agencies, responsible for providing shared services such as staff development, special education services, technology and curriculum support to schools within their region. RUS grant funds in conjunction with matching funds from CDLEC, will be used to purchase digital equipment, compatible with current industry digital standards and circuits, to interconnect the schools with one another by cable, fiber optics, and/or copper wire. The anticipated benefits of this project include providing advanced placement and college-level courses to students; and involving the community in the use of technology for personal and career development.

Mid-American Rehabilitation Telehealth Network c/o Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital; Lincoln, Nebraska; \$306,110 grant; Area(s) served: Saline, Dodge, and Saunders Counties; Contact: Ms. Jolene Davidson; (402) 483-7102; FAX: (402) 483-8285; Congressional District: 1st

The Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital has been awarded a Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant of \$306,110 to use for a telemedicine project called the Mid-American Rehabilitation Telehealth Network (MRTN). Members of the MRTN include the: (1) Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska; (2) Wilber Care Center (Wilber, Nebraska); (3) Ashland Care Center (Ashland, Nebraska); and, (4) Fremont Area Medical Center (Fremont, Nebraska). The goal of this telehealth system is to assure that rural residents have immediate access to quality rehabilitation care. Specifically, a hub-and-spoke telehealth system that will link community care centers and long-term care centers for patient consultation and treatment; education for patients, care providers, families, and community members; support groups, and for family/patient visitation. Patients will be able to receive care from rehabilitation professionals without leaving their home area. Continuing education opportunities will also be offered including Certified Nursing Assistant and Licensed Practical Nurse Certification training, in-services, and Grand Rounds. Specialists at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital will collaborate on and share leading-edge technology with clinicians in the connecting rehabilitation departments. This project will benefit approximately 90,000 rural residents.

